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On March 15, 1955, the I. F. A. N. /Institut Français d'Afrique Noire/ was informed by the administration of the Collège Technique d'Industrie at Fann of the discovery, by students of this establishment, of human skeletons inside a baobab located between this school and the Mandel rest home, at the edge of the Médina of Dakar (1). The next day we went

1. Discovery announced in the
Paris-Dakar of March 22, 1955.
February 19 was given erroneously.

to the spot and returned from there on March 19.

This baobab, called "Bok," rises in the middle of a former garden. It is of fine size: 15 meters high, 18.50 meters in circumference, or nearly six meters in diameter (Fig. 1). The trunk is hollow and forms a nearly circular chamber, 3.50 meters in diameter by six meters high, connected to the outside by three orifices: one on the east at ground level, 60 centimeters high by 45 wide, through which there is access to the interior; a sort of dormer window, 0.35 by 0.25 of a meter, on the north face, 73/75 centimeters above the ground; and, in the ceiling of the interior cavity, a slit one meter long by about 0.30 of a meter wide (Fig. 2).

Inside, the ground is composed of brownish earth mixed with sand and many human bones. The upper layer had already been excavated by students desirous of procuring skulls for themselves. The first time, we took away the bones found on the surface, not having the means to make excavations. When we came back two days later with the necessary equipment, we noticed that meanwhile new borings and samplings had been made by the students; thus this time it was wise to remove /Fig. 1 appears here/ all the osteological material possible, without being able to proceed with methodical excavations.

We therefore rescued all that we could; the skeletons were tangled up in the most extraordinary fashion without any attempt at orientation. The bodies had, obviously been thrown down